

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:*Sub B1*

1. An ingestible, chewable, or aqueous soluble non-toxic capsule containing a sufficient quantity of an ethanol composition to facilitate transport, storage, delivery and consumption of recreationally relevant quantities of such alcohol composition.

Sub B2

2. The capsule according to claim 1 comprising an easily transportable recreationally relevant quantity of ethanol in an ingestible container.

*Sub B2**Sub B2*

3. The capsule according to claim 1 comprising an easily transportable recreationally relevant quantity of ethanol in a chewable container.

*Sub B2**Sub B2*

4. The capsule according to claim 1 comprising an easily transportable recreationally relevant quantity of ethanol wherein said capsule is soluble, swells, softens, bursts, becomes permeable, or is easily ruptured when contacted with aqueous solutions.

*Sub B2**Sub B2*

5. The capsule according to claim 1 in the shape of spheres, ellipses, elongated tubes, or similarly shaped capsule composed of gelatin, alginate, xanthan gum, guar gum, chitin, chitosin, gellan gum, agar, carrageenan, albumin, starch, carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), or mixtures thereof.

*Sub A15**Sub A15*

6. The capsule according to claim 5 wherein said capsule contains within an enclosed, sealed cavity, approximately 0.5 to 1.5 ounces of an ethanol composition.

*Sub A15**Sub A15*

7. The capsule according to claim 6 wherein said ethanol contained within the cavity of said capsule is pure, substantially pure, or diluted ethanol, for addition to and dissolution in an aqueous solution, such as a fruit juice, soft drink or in water, or wherein the alcohol is mixed with water, syrup, gel, flavoring and the like, such

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that the capsule may be directly dissolved in a person's mouth, chewed or swallowed for dissolution inside the digestive tract.

5 8. *Q&A B3* The capsule according to claim 6 wherein said alcohol is between about 5% and about 95% ethanol.

9. The capsule according to claim 6 wherein said alcohol is between about 25% to about 70% ethanol.

10 10. The capsule according to claim 6 wherein said alcohol is between about 40% and about 50% ethanol or about 50% and 70% ethanol.

11. The capsule according to claim 1 wherein the total internal volume of the capsule is between about 5 milliliters to about 50 milliliters.

15 12. The capsule according to claim 1 wherein the total internal volume of the capsule is between about 10 milliliters and about 30 milliliters.

20 13. The capsule according to claim 1 wherein said capsule comprises a non-toxic material as the encapsulant to deliver the ethanol composition for recreational purposes.

14. The capsule according to claim 13 wherein the encapsulating material is digestible.

25 15. The capsule according to claim 14 designed for breakage, crushing, or dissolving in the consumer's mouth and optionally for subsequent expulsion, or for easy swallowing.

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16. The capsule according to claim 15 wherein said capsule is coated with a sugar coating, a flavored coating, a water impermeable coating, a wax coating, a coating which prevents evaporation, or a coating which combines these coatings.

5 17. The capsule according to claim 14 having a geometry such that the diameter of the capsule is sufficiently small to permit easy passage into the digestive tract.

10 18. The capsule according to claim 13 wherein the encapsulating material is non-digestible, or, where the alcohol content is particularly high, having a shape that prevents swallowing, but which at the same time ensures that choking on the capsule is extremely unlikely or impossible.

15 19. The capsule according to claim 18 wherein the capsule is substantially too large to swallow, in which case the capsule has to be broken in the mouth, for example by chewing, or dissolved in an aqueous beverage, which is then swallowed in liquid form.

20 20. The capsule according to claim 18 in the form of a life-saver buoy, i.e. being of a contiguous tubular shape in the form of a circle, with an internal canal or cavity, such that upon the unlikely event of lodgment in a consumer's throat, there is sufficient space for air to pass through the canal to prevent asphyxiation.

25 21. The capsule according to claim 1 wherein the encapsulating material is capable of sustaining various concentrations of ethanol within the internal compartment, without dissolution into the ethanol.

22. The capsule according to claim 21 wherein said encapsulating material is sufficient to sustain packaging and storage for from several minutes to several months.

23. The capsule according to claim 22 comprising sufficient concentrations of gelatin included in the encapsulating material to form said encapsulating material, or wherein the molecules constituting the gelatin capsule are cross-linked with a cross-linking agent.

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24. The capsule according to claim 23 wherein said gelatin is cross-linked with glutaraldehyde.

10 25. The capsule according to claim 1 comprising a pH sensitive component such that known, pH-dependent dissolution characteristics are imparted to the encapsulant.

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26. The capsule according to claim 25 wherein, upon exposure of the capsule to a specific elevated or decreased pH, the encapsulating material rapidly dissolves, softens, swells, ruptures, hardens, or becomes permeable.

*in
encapsulant*

27. The capsule according to claim 26 wherein the encapsulant dissolves in a solution of reduced or elevated pH.

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28. The capsule according to claim 1 having the appearance of a garnish.

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29. The capsule according to claim 29 having the appearance of an olive.

30. The capsule according to claim 28 comprising a sufficient quantity of ethanol such that deposition into a beverage results in dissolution, swelling, rupture, ease of breakage or permeability at a certain time after such deposition to provide a "refresher" or "kicker" of released ethanol to the beverage.

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31. The capsule according to claim 1 comprising a wax-based capsule containing between about 5 and 50 cc of optionally flavored ethanol of pure or substantially pure or diluted ethanol.

32. The capsule according to claim 31 wherein the capsule is chewed by a consumer, and the waxy encapsulant material is discarded, chewed like gum, or swallowed for elimination in the natural course of events.

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33. The capsule according to claim 1 wherein the alcoholic beverage is a wine, spirit, mixed drink, brandy, flavored alcohol, tequila, vermouth, gin, vodka, or a mixture thereof.

34. A wine-tasting kit comprising a container bearing a plurality of encapsulated 10 wines of different origins and qualities.

35. A kit comprising a series of ingestible or chewable capsules containing sufficient quantities of different alcoholic beverages such that ingestion or chewing of each said capsule releases a recreationally relevant quantity of ethanol into the 15 digestive tract of a consumer as to permit the recreational physiological effects of ethanol consumption to be appreciated by the consumer upon consumption of one to several of said capsules.

36. A method of delivering recreationally relevant quantities of ethanol to consumers 20 of ethanol which comprises encapsulating said recreationally relevant quantities of ethanol in non-toxic ingestible, chewable or aqueous soluble capsules.

37. A method of delivering alcohol in a recipe for a consumable good which 25 comprises including in said recipe one or more capsules containing recreationally relevant quantities of an ethanol composition and releasing the ethanol composition into said consumable good under determined conditions.